

DRAINAGE WATER MANAGEMENT

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 554



WATERSPREADING

Drainage water management is controlling the removal of surface or subsurface runoff with water-control structures.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

The purpose of regulating water in a drainage system is to manage moisture by controlling the outflow of drainage water. This practice applies to areas where drainage is needed during certain periods and where it is advantageous to limit the outflow at other times when the moisture can be utilized by crops or when wet conditions are needed to conserve organic material (organic soils). This practice is especially applicable in highly permeable soils that have a low available water capacity and in organic soils, mentioned above, that tend to subside when soil-moisture conditions are favorable for decomposition of organic material.

A plan of operations should be developed to assure objectives are met. Consideration should be given to matters such as the time and stage to

hold water in ditches, pumping schedules, and coordination of these items with rainfall, season, crop needs, and soil requirements.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

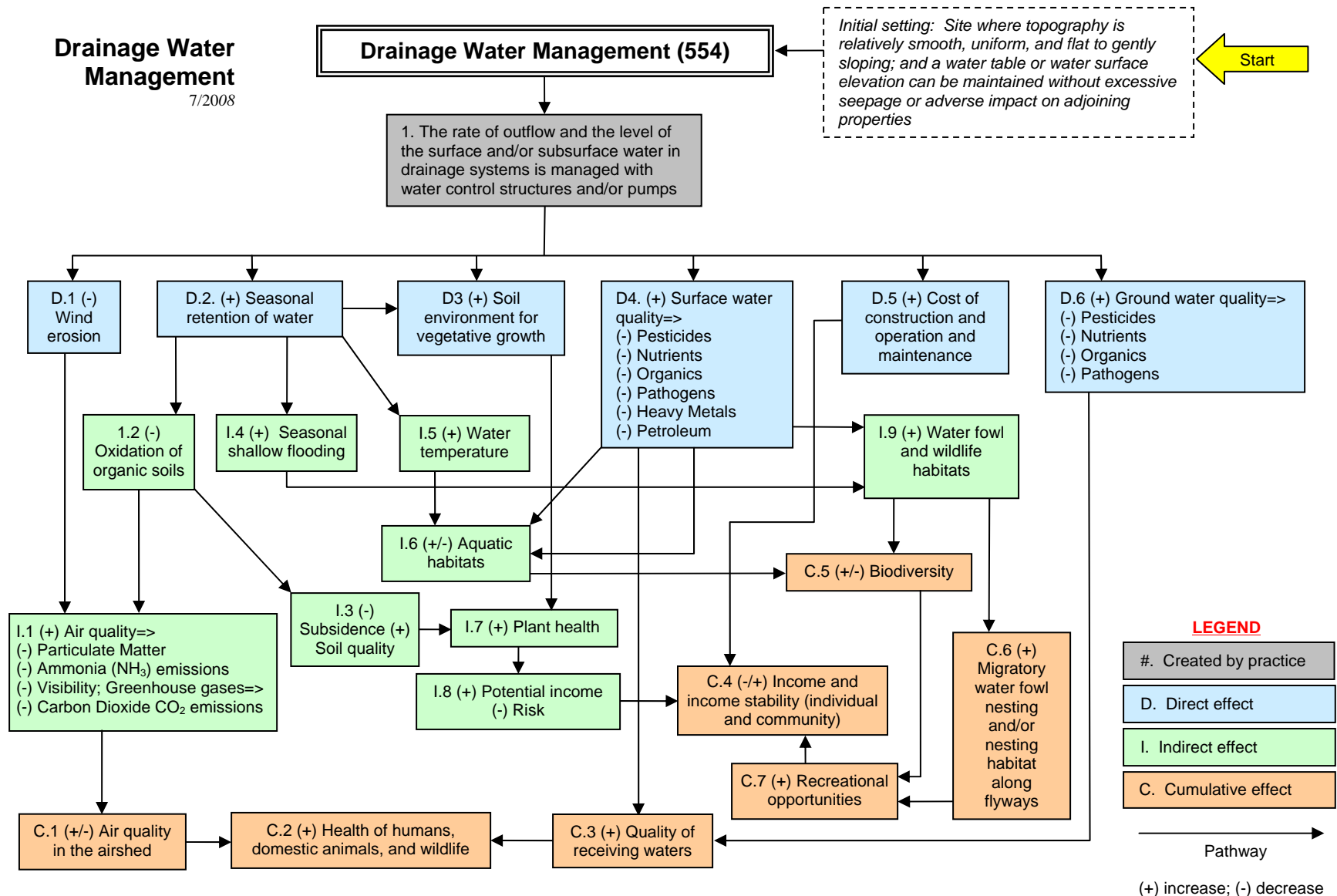
Drainage Water Management is commonly planned as part of a Conservation Management System with Structure for Water Control (587); Subsurface Drain (606); Surface Drainage, Main, or Lateral (608); Pumping Plant (533); Vertical Drain (630); Water and Sediment Control Basin (638); Dike (356); and Critical Area Planting (342).

For further information, refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated practice specifications and job sheets.

The following page identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

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Note: Effects are qualified with a plus (+) or minus (-). These symbols indicate only an increase (+) or a decrease (-) in the effect upon the resource, not whether the effect is beneficial or adverse.

The diagram above identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied according to NRCS practice standards and specifications. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. All income changes are partially dependent upon market fluctuations which are independent of the conservation practices. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.